

Overview

This is an introductory lesson in Kansas geography that will teach students how to find Kansas on a map, how to write the word “Kansas,” and when the state celebrates its birthday. The lesson also reinforces phonic and fine motor skills. The activities are presented as lessons to undertake over three days, but this can be adjusted to meet individual teacher’s needs.

Standards

History:

Benchmark 3, Indicator 2 The student understands that Kansas is a state in the United States and the significance of Kansas Day is the celebration of its birthday.

Benchmark 3, Indicator 3 The student locates the state of Kansas using a map of the United States.

Reading:

Benchmark 1, Indicator 1 The student identifies sounds of both upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.

Benchmark 1, Indicator 6 The student demonstrates an understanding of graphemes and phonemes (i.e., sound-symbol relationships) in written and spoken language.

Objectives

Content:

- The student explains the relationship between a “country” and a “state.”
- The student defines Kansas Day as the state’s birthday.

Skills:

- The student practices the relationship between sounds and symbols in spelling the word “Kansas.”
- The student uses a map to locate Kansas.

Essential Questions

- What is a map?
- How can we live in both a state and a country?
- How can the location of a state be defined in relation to its physical relationship to other states? (relative location)

Activities

This activity uses the following *Read Kansas* card:

- **Where is Kansas?**

Day 1

1. Have the students cut out the letter tiles from the **Kansas** worksheet that spell out Kansas. When they are finished, have the students place the tiles, letter-side up, in a row in any order on their desk.
2. Pass out the **Where is Kansas?** *Read Kansas* card. Have students position the card so the squares show and the sunflower is in the upper left side of the page.
3. Write the word "Kansas" on the board, explaining that the student is going to learn to spell the name of our state.
4. Make the "k" sound and ask the students to hold up the letter "K." Place the "K" in the first box of their folder. Have the students repeat with you the "k" sound.
5. Continue this process with the letters "a," "n," "s," "a," "s."
6. Have the students look at their new row of letters. Tell them they have learned to spell "Kansas." Tell them this is where we live.

Day 2

1. If you have a large map of the United States that clearly distinguishes the states, place it at the front of the room.
2. Give each student a copy of the **Where Is Kansas?** *Read Kansas* card. Have the students position the card so the map of the United States shows.
3. Teach the students the song "**Where, Oh Where, is Kansas?**" Follow the script (on page 3) and complete the instructions as you go.
4. When you are finished discuss with students:
 - What is a map?
 - What is the name of our country?
 - What is Kansas?
5. Have students complete the **Where Is Kansas?** worksheet. This will allow each student to identify Kansas on a map.

Day 3

1. Set up the classroom for a birthday party--use your imagination.
2. Explain to the students that the state, like the students, has a birthday.
3. Have them learn the cheer for "**Happy Birthday Kansas!**" (on page 4).
4. Have the students say the cheer as the teacher reads the verses for the "Happy Birthday Kansas" poem (on page 4).
5. Ask the students whose birthday you are celebrating. What is Kansas's birthday called? What is Kansas Day? Have the students complete the **Happy Birthday** worksheet.
6. Students will write the word Kansas on the six spaces provided on the cake. Have students write how old the state is in the three spaces in the candles. Kansas became a state in 1861.

Assessment

1. Observe the students' ability to correctly identify the relationship between the sound of the letters and the written symbol of the letter.
2. Evaluate the students' ability to locate Kansas on the **Where Is Kansas?** worksheet.
3. Evaluate the students' **Happy Birthday!** worksheet to see if they understand that Kansas Day is our state's birthday.

For the Teacher

Where, Oh Where, Is Kansas?

*Below is a script to follow when using the map on the **Where is Kansas?** Read Kansas card. Teach the students the short song. Then whenever it is time for the song, have the entire class sing along. You might want to hold up a picture of a sunflower when it is time to sing. Otherwise follow the instructions in the script.*

Song: (sung to the tune of "Where, Oh Where, Has My Little Dog Gone")

**Where, oh where, is Kansas?
Look at the map and you'll see.
It looks just like a rectangle,
Oh, Kansas is home to me!**

Script

Class: *Sing song*

Teacher: This is a map of the United States.
A map is a picture of a place.
The United States is the name of our country.
We all live in the United States of America.
The United States is very, very big.
It is made up of 50 smaller states.
There are many, many states.
If we were to start counting states, we would count all the way to 50.
The United States is a very big country.

Class: *Sing song.*

Teacher: Place your finger on the sunflower on your map.
This is Kansas.
Kansas is our state.
Kansas is where we live.

Class: *Sing song.*

Teacher: Kansas is in the middle of the United States.
Kansas looks like a rectangle.
Look at the map of the United States.
Can you point to the middle of the map?
Kansas is in the middle.
Our state is in the middle of the United States.
Kansas is one of 50 states.

Class: *Sing song.*

Teacher: We live in Kansas
We live in the United States.
Kansas is a state in the United States.
We are in the middle of the United States.

Class: *Sing song.*

Happy Birthday Kansas!

Teach the students the cheer. Then, whenever it is time for the cheer, have the entire class cheer along. You might want to hold up a sunflower when it is time to cheer. This is a good Kansas Day activity but can also be done anytime of the year. Kansas became a state on January 29, 1861.

Cheer:
**Kansas has a birthday every year,
It is called Kansas Day, give a big cheer!**

Script

Class: *Say cheer.*

Teacher: Happy Birthday Kansas!
You have a birthday. It is the day you were born.
Kansas has a birthday. It is the day our state was born.
Kansas is our state.
Happy Birthday Kansas!

Class: *Say cheer.*

Teacher: When Kansas has a birthday it is called Kansas Day.
On Kansas Day we all celebrate.
What do we celebrate?
We celebrate the birthday of Kansas.
Happy Birthday Kansas!

Class: *Say cheer.*

Teacher: Happy Birthday Kansas!
Happy Kansas Day!

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Resources for this lesson are from:

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Kansas

Worksheet

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Name: _____

Where Is Kansas?

Worksheet

We live in Kansas.

We live in the United States.

Kansas is a state in the United States.

Color Kansas yellow.



Name: _____

Happy Birthday

Worksheet

